



## State, Federal Officials Mark Anniversary of Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami By Viewing Progress in Santa Cruz Harbor Tsunami Recovery

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SANTA CRUZ, CA - Officials from the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA), the California Geological Survey (CGS) and the Federal Emergency Agency (FEMA) today got a first-hand view of progress by the Santa Cruz Port District in its efforts to recover from the impacts of the tsunami wave surge generated by the magnitude-9.0 Tohoku earthquake nearly one year ago.

During their visit, Cal EMA, CGS and FEMA officials also received updates from representatives of the Santa Cruz and Monterey county offices of emergency services and the National Weather Service on local efforts to recover from the tsunami wave surge and attain designation as TsunamiReady communities.

"Sunday's anniversary of the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami is a reminder that events thousands of miles away can have an impact on California and other parts of the United States," said Cal EMA Secretary Mark Ghilarducci. "Our thoughts are with those in Japan and the United States whose lives were affected by last year's earthquake and tsunami"

In California, the tsunami wave surge caused one death and an estimated \$100 million in public and private-sector property losses.

To be sure, tsunamis are not as big a threat to Californians as earthquakes, landslides, wildfires or floods. But they do occur, and more often than one might think. Dozens of tsunamis have hit California's coast since 1800, and a

number of them caused damage. Most notably, a tsunami generated by a huge earthquake in Alaska killed 11 people in Crescent City in 1964.

"Tsunamis are relatively rare events, but we have been reminded time and again of the need to be prepared at the state, local and individual level," said Mark Nechodom, Director of the California Department of Conservation, CGS' parent organization. "The most recent reminder came last year, and it has not gone ignored."

Californians can obtain information about tsunami preparedness by contacting their local office of emergency services or online at [www.tsunami.ca.gov](http://www.tsunami.ca.gov), and [www.myhazards.calema.ca.gov](http://www.myhazards.calema.ca.gov).

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